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Mrs. Hart.

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John L. Attee

admitted March 9th 1820

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On Hydrocephalus. Neuritis.

Preface.

One of the most fatal and ungovernable diseases incident to childhood, forms the subject of my inaugural thesis. It is a disease whose pathology is still obscure, and whose remedial treatment, is as yet extremely uncertain. I do not presume, to add any thing new or interesting, either to the pathology, or treatment of this disease. I have, sufficiently, drawn up a few observations on its nature and cure. Such as it is, I submit with much respect and reverence, this essay, to the examination of those, who are to judge on its merits; being well assured, that it will meet with that indulgence, which the first literary attempts of inexperienced youth, are entitled to receive from the votaries in science.

Dr. Whyll was the first physician, who described Hydrocephalus. Neuritis, as a distinct disease. He ascribed the disease to a state of debility in the vessels of the brain, in

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consequence of which the cholent arteris throw out a greater quantity of fluid, than the abortivit can take up.
Dr Quin was the first who combatted this erroneous idea of the nature of this disease. He shewed, that it consists in a state of the brain, surely the source of debility; namely, in an inflammatory action of that organ. Dr Goddard and Withering seem to have entertained similar views. Dr Rush developed this view of the pathology of this disease more fully, and all modern writers, with the exception of Barreia and perhaps a few others, have adopted these sentiments. Dr Barreia supposed the heat of the abortivit of the brain, to be the cause of hydrocephalus externus. In this opinion, however, he is followed by no one else.

Within a few years past, the pathology of this disease has been much elucidated. Sympathy, which seems to have an agency in so many of the phenomena, both of health and disease, has lately been called in, to account for circumstances connected with this disease, altogether inexplicable on other principles. I allude to the violent connection which subsists between morbid affections of the chyliferous vessels and hy-

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encephalic symptoms; a connection, which it is of the
almost importance to keep in mind, in conducting our cura-
tive treatment -

It appears to me that this disease may,
with great propriety, be divided into two varieties, idio-
pathic and sympathetic. By *Sympathetic hydrocephalus*, I understand, that form of the disease, which de-
pends on a primary or idiopathic inflammatory action of
the capillaries of the brain; and which corresponds with
what Dr. Abercrombie* has described under the name of
chronic inflammation of the brain. By *Sympathetic*
hydrocephalus, I would understand that variety of this
malady, which arises from primary irritation seated in
the sympathetic viscera. These two varieties are, I believe,
parallel in nature, and may generally, I feel persuaded,
be distinguished by a careful attention to the symptoms in
the forming and first stages.

Symptoms of *Sympathetic Hydrocephalus Acute*.

Tanquer for a day or two, followed by an accesion of
fever, ushered in sometimes by shivering, oppression and

* See No. 80 of the Edinburgh Medical & Surgical Journal.

† see Stoffler's Chalybeate Therapeutics in Vol. II.

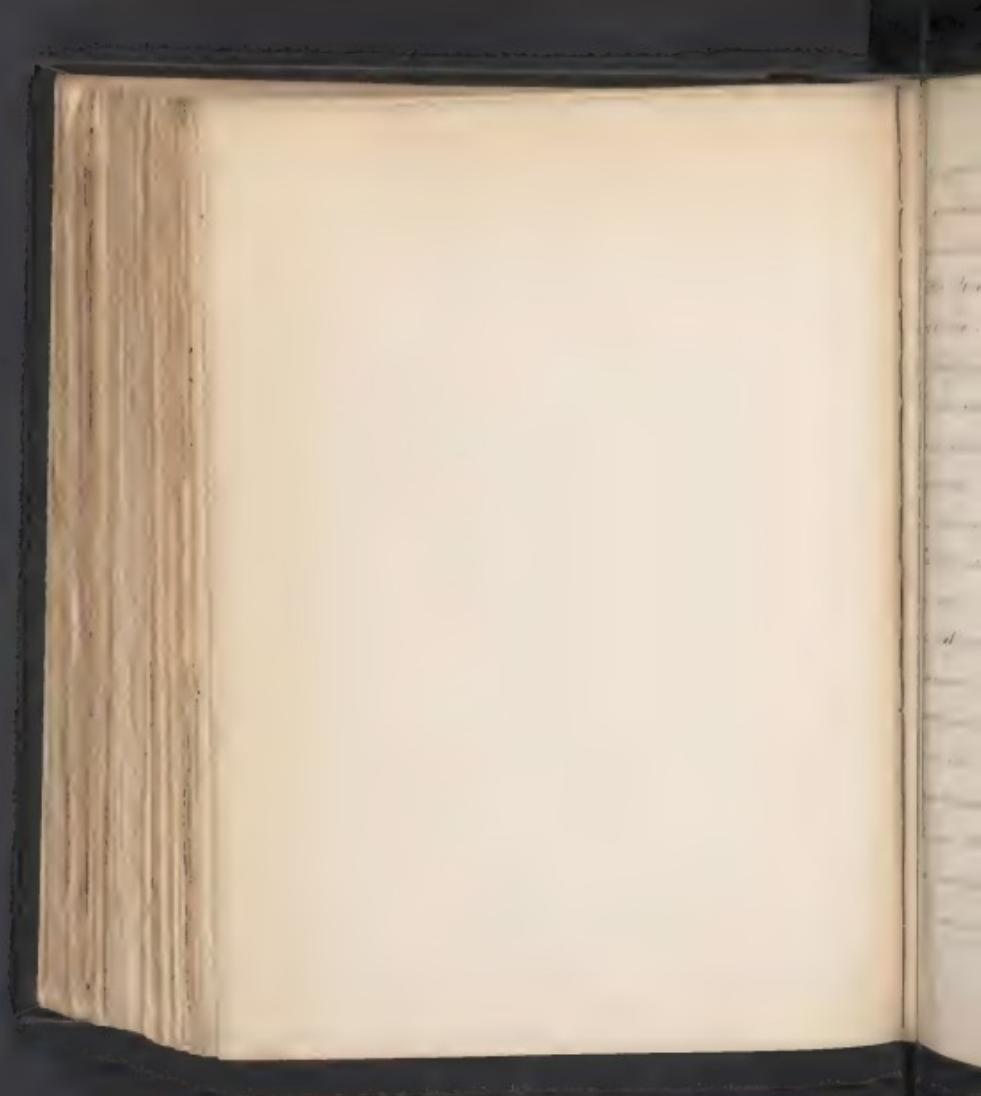
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unwillingness to be disturbed; severe pain in the head, not at first confined to one spot, but darting through it in various directions; extending frequently down the neck to the shoulders, face, flesh, and intolerance of light; pain in different parts of the body; pupil usually contracted; eye vaguely sensible to the light, and sometimes suffused; tongue white moist, and sometimes quite clean; sleep disturbed, with startings and frightful dreams; grinding of the teeth during sleep; bowels generally active, though frequently natural, and sometimes affected with diarrhoea; pulse frequent, tense, and quick; slight delirium at last begins to appear, which is perhaps only observed during the night, or when awaking out of sleep; sometimes the patient lies awake, or talking incoherently, but out of which state he can be readily roused, so as to talk sensibly. In other cases, instead of delirium, there occurs a peculiar forgetfulness, the patient using one word instead of another, misnaming persons and things, mistaking the day, or the time of day, or showing in some similar manner a confusion of thought. The second stage also begins, which is marked by a sinking of the pulse, from

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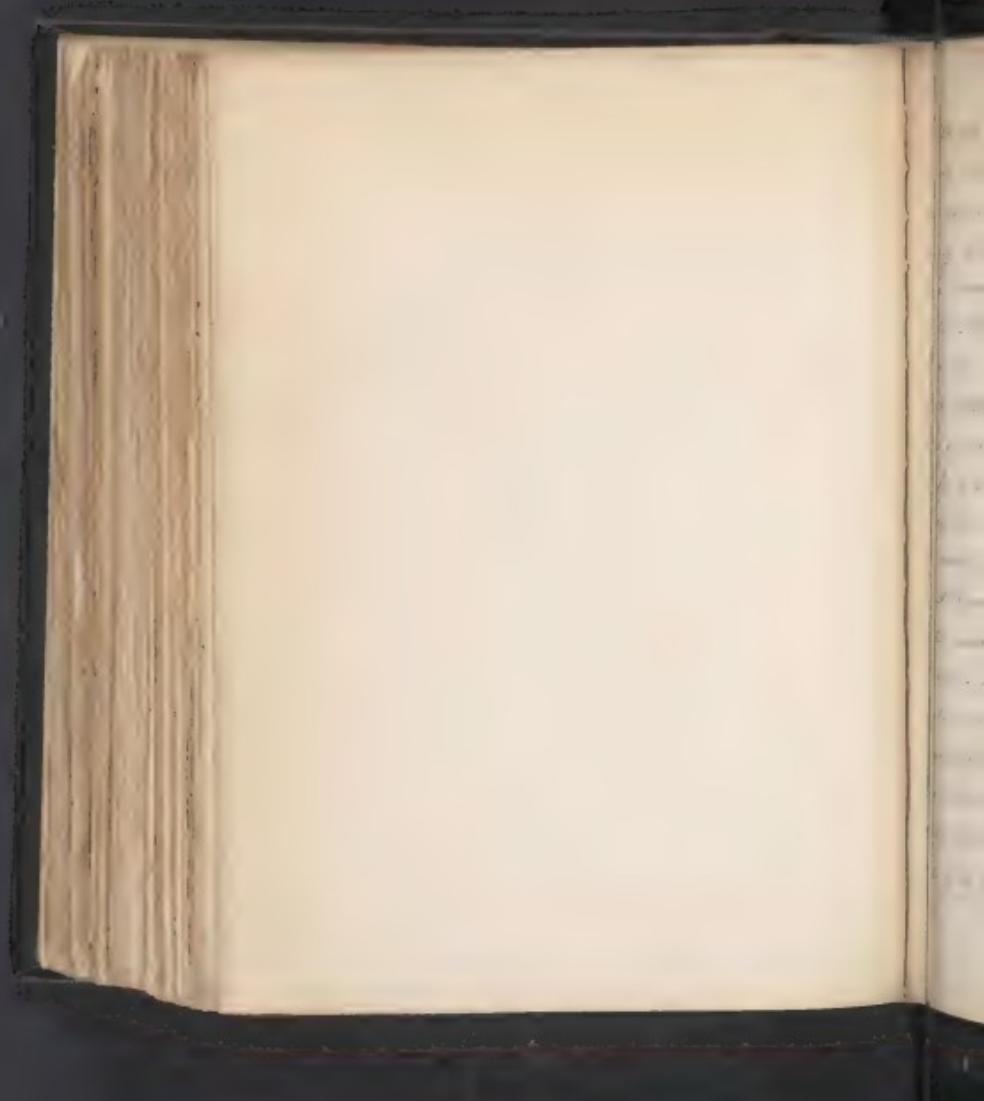
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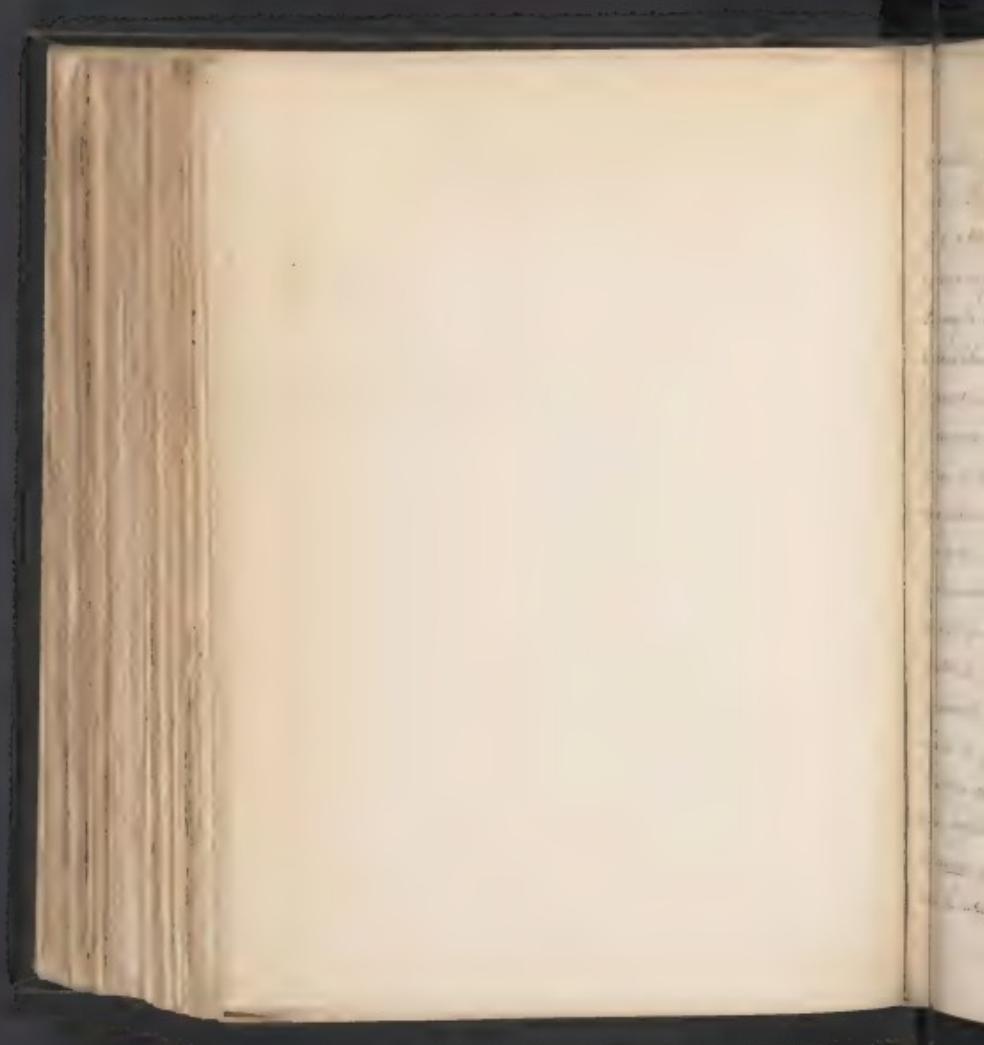
to which she has given me
the name of "The Little
Red Hen". I have also
written a short story
about her, which you
will like. It is as follows:
A little red hen had
a hen's nest in a hollow
log. In it were three
little chicks. The hen
fed them well, and
taught them to peck
at the ground for worms.
One day, when the chicks
had grown up a little,
they said to their mother,
"We are now big enough
to go out and find our
own food." The hen
said, "Very well, my
children, go and see if
you can find any worms
in the garden. If you
do, bring them back
to me, and I will give
you some bread to eat."
So off they went, and
soon found a worm or two
in the garden. They
brought them back to
the hen, who said, "Good
children, now go and
find some more worms,
and I will give you
some more bread to eat."
Again they went out,
and again found a worm
or two. They brought
them back to the hen,
who said, "Good children,
now go and find some
more worms, and I will
give you some more bread
to eat." Again they
went out, and again
found a worm or two.
They brought them back
to the hen, who said,
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more bread to eat."

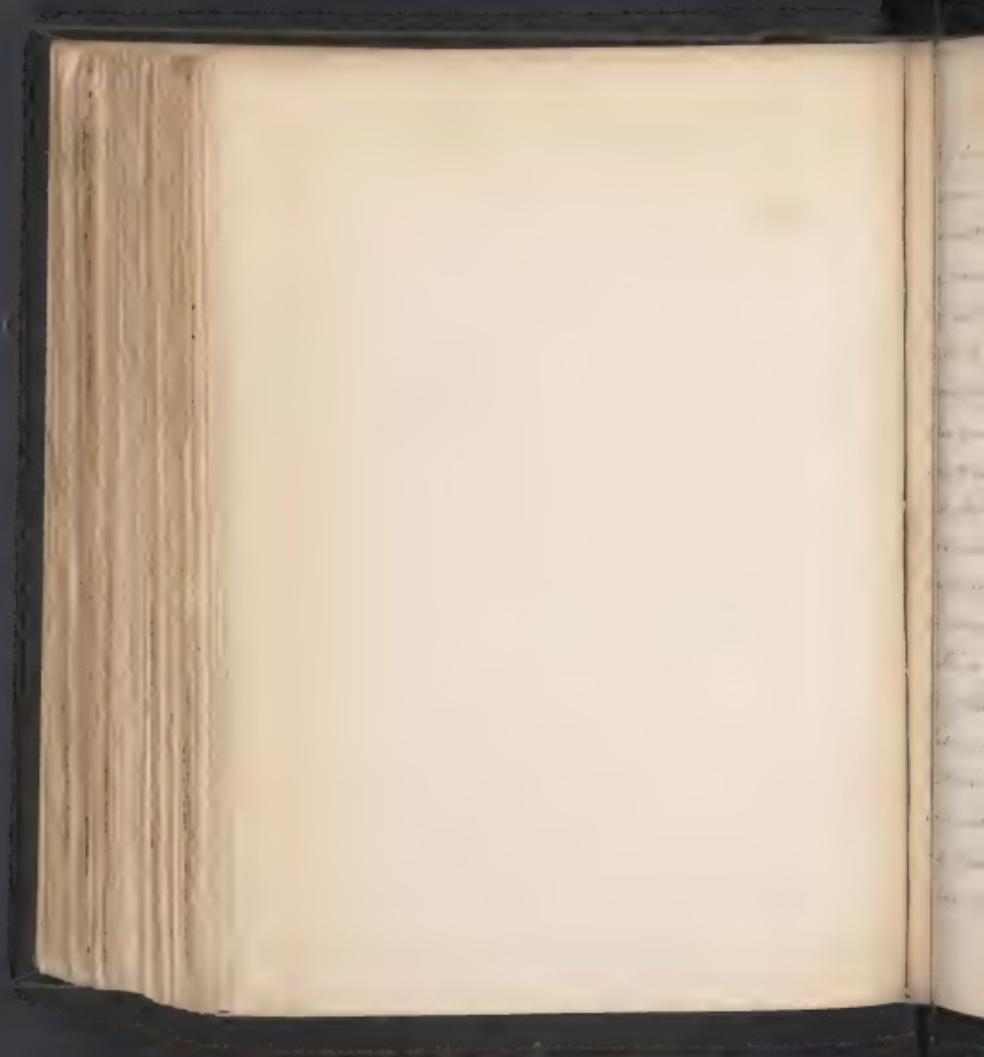


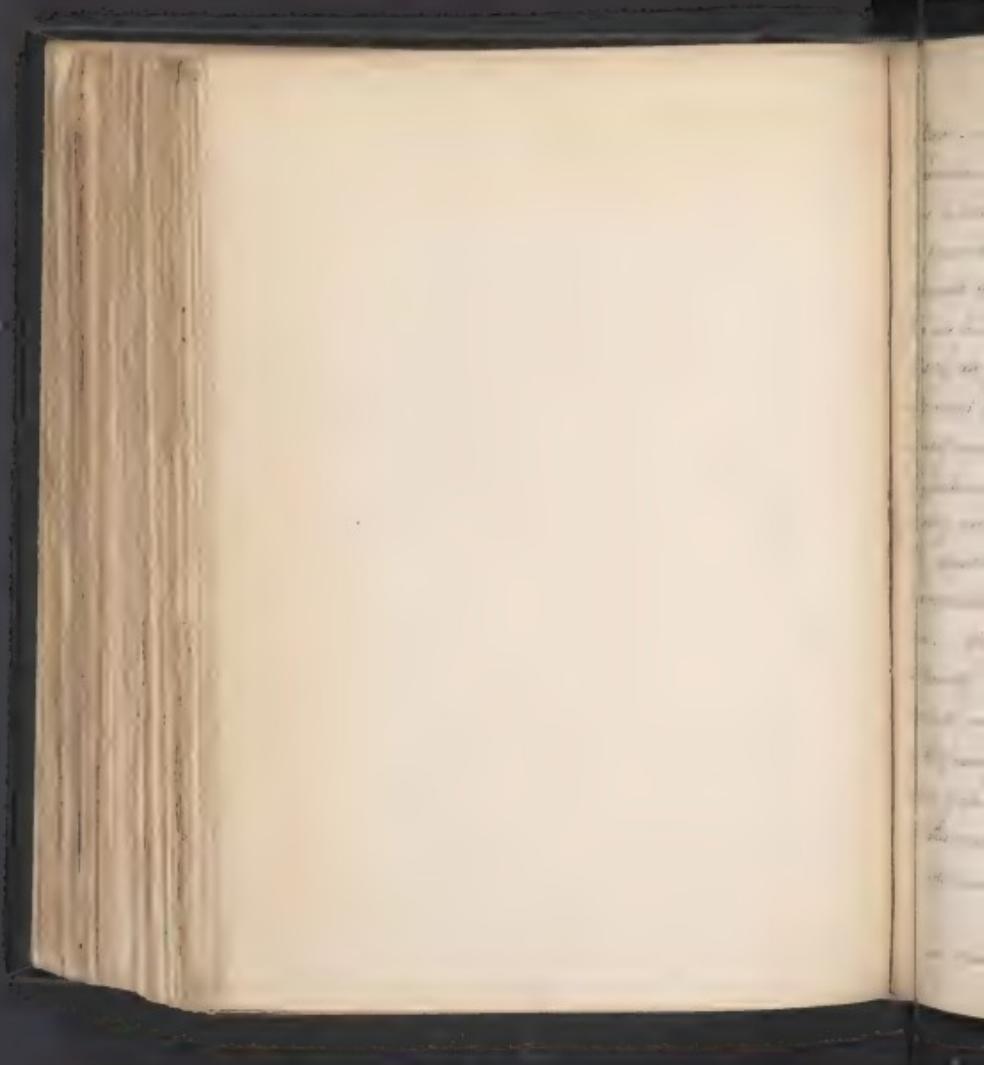
the number of species
and the size of the
specimens.

The results of Semple's work
will be published in the course of next year.
He has made a very good collection
of the species of the genus *Leptostoma*,
and has also collected a large number
of species of the genus *Leptostomella*.
He has also collected a number of
species of the genus *Leptostomella*,
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species of the genus *Leptostomella*.
He has also collected a number of
species of the genus *Leptostomella*.









about a dragon who was in the
water, and he said, "I am the
water dragon, and I have come
to you because you have been
so kind to me. I have a
secret which I must tell you,
and it is this: I am not
a real dragon, but a water
spirit, and I have come here
to tell you about my secret
which I must tell you."

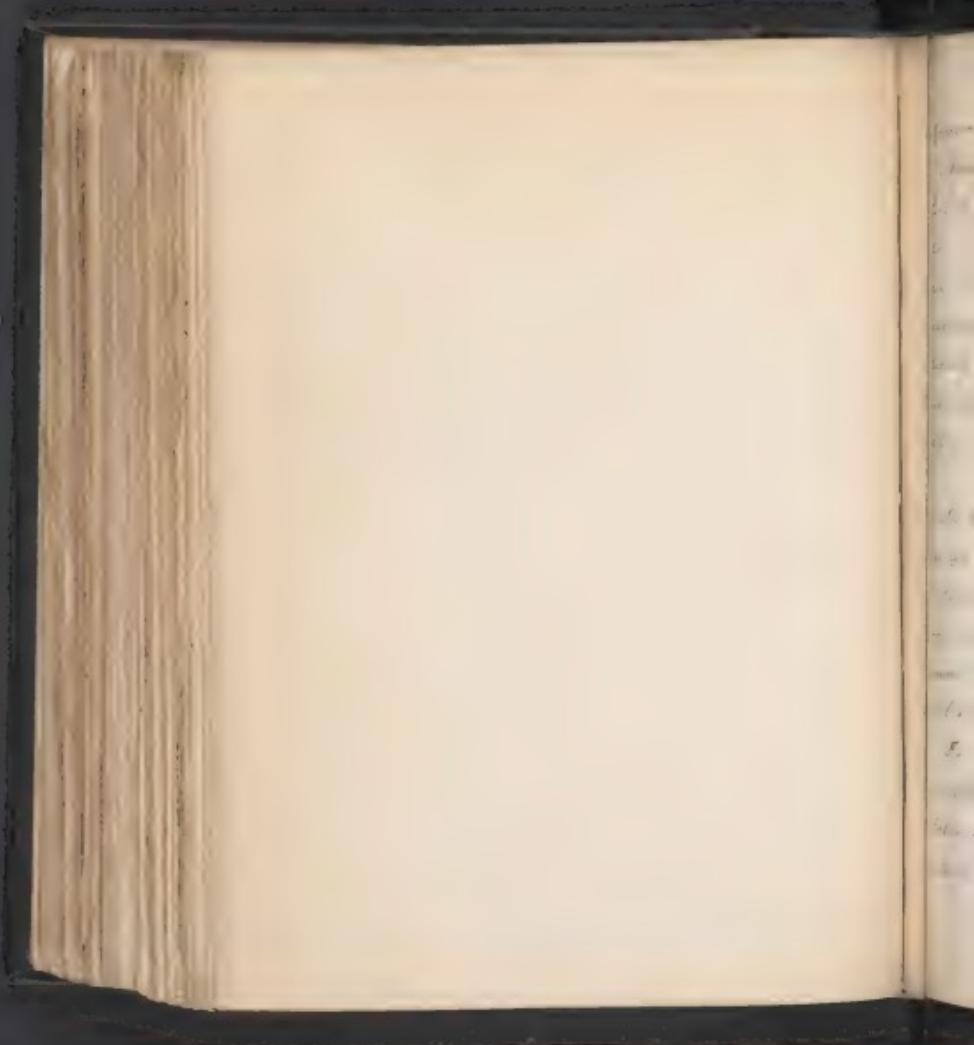
"What is your secret?" asked the
boy.

"It is this: I am not a real
dragon, but a water spirit,
and I have come here to tell you
about my secret which I must
tell you."

"What is your secret?" asked the boy.

"It is this: I am not a real
dragon, but a water spirit,
and I have come here to tell you
about my secret which I must
tell you."

"What is your secret?" asked the boy.



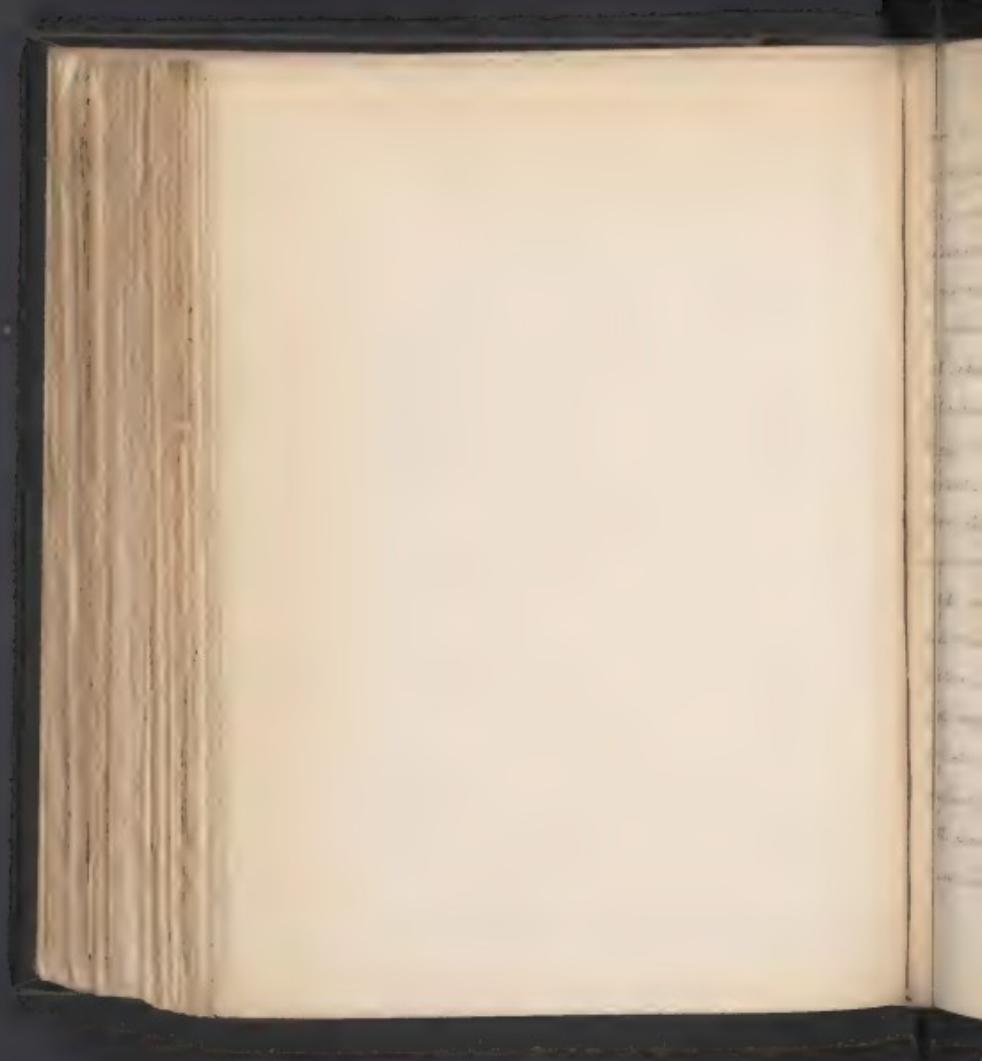
about the country.

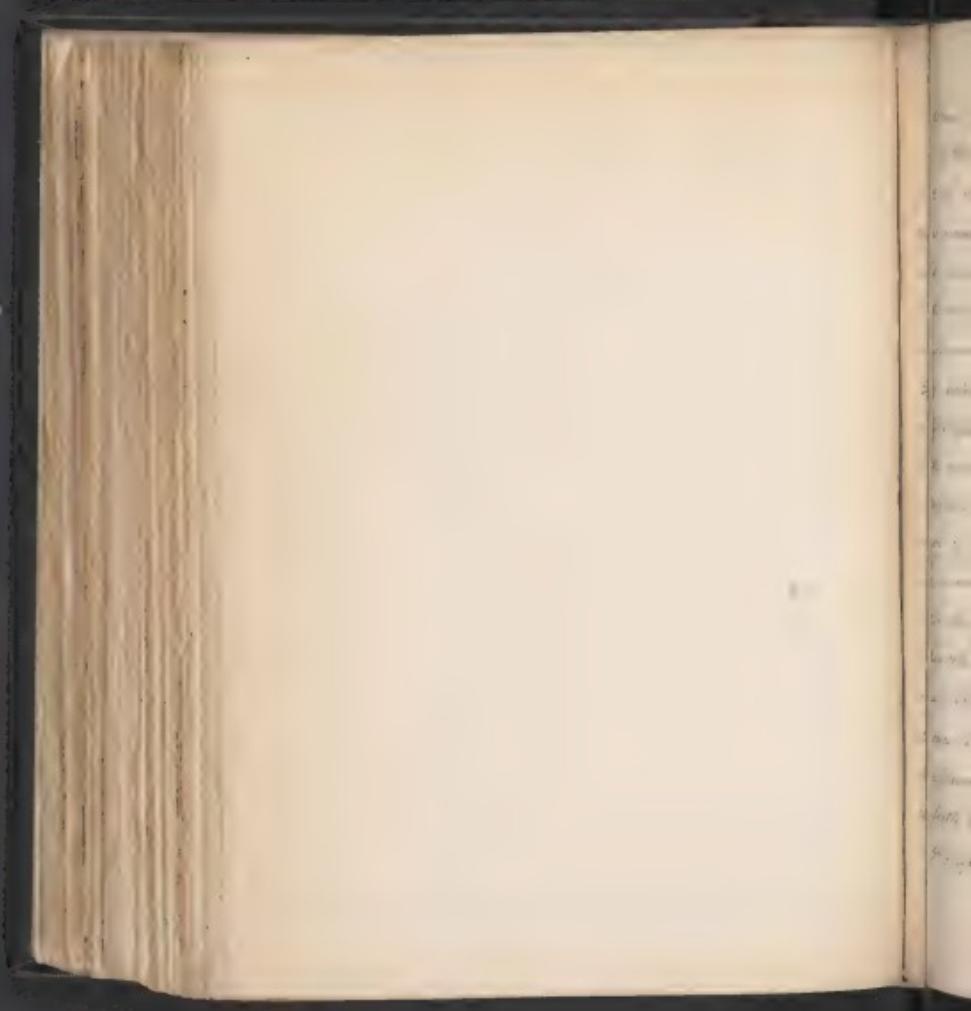
At first the men were scattered
over the country, but as the
war progressed they became
more numerous and more
powerful. They took up their
quarters in the city of Boston,
and from thence they sent
out their forces to attack
the country around them.

Health.

The health of the men was
very bad at first, but as the
war progressed they became
more healthy. They took up
their quarters in the city of Boston,
and from thence they sent
out their forces to attack
the country around them.

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very bad at first, but as the
war progressed they became
more healthy. They took up
their quarters in the city of Boston,
and from thence they sent
out their forces to attack
the country around them.





internal friction of nosurgical ointment, should be resorted to; if the calomel, exhibited internally, does not appear to affect the system soon enough. It is probable that the aca-

ties, derived from the calomel in this disease, arise, in many cases, more from its salutary action on the morbid condition of the chyliferous viscera, than from its affecting the delirious fluids, and thereby producing a revulsion from the brain.

By active purging, & leeching or cupping the temples, in the early stage, we may generally succeed in arresting the progress of the disease. It is, therefore, most particularly to be kept in mind, that in this stage, no chief reliance on the efficacy of medicine ought to be placed. Set not the physician in, in doubtful cases, histrion, and use a fable practice, never the hope that it may not be this disease; which, when it has taken a few hold on the patient, is so difficult to overcome. Active purging, and general & local evulsion, should it have to resort to. The bowels, for several days after the appearance of all hydrocephalic symptoms, to be kept perfectly loose -

Dr. Dugay says, he has applied liches and blisters to the

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region of the liver, to prepare the way for, and co-operate with, the purgative medicines, in restoring the viscus to a sound state, and, he thinks, considerable benefit was derived from his practice -

The general bleeding, though evidently most beneficial in the early stage, may be repeated at any time, during the progress of the disease, in a stout child, & if it be otherwise indicated by the state of the pulse -

I am about drawn up, concisely, a few observations on this formidable disease - I am fully sensible that they are deficient - I submit them, with sincere respect, to the Medical faculty of my Alma Mater -

